

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a system and method for controlling a retractable sootblower having a frame, a movable carriage, a limit switch mounted on the movable carriage, a first switch control device, and a second switch control device. The frame supports the movable carriage, allowing the movable carriage to move between an extended and retracted position. The limit switch is mounted on the carriage and configured to sense both the first switch control device and the second switch control device. The first switch control device is positioned such that the limit switch will sense the first switch control device when the carriage is in the extended position. The second switch control device is positioned such that the limit switch will sense the second switch control device when the carriage is in the retracted position. The sootblower also includes a motor for driving the movable carriage between the extended and retracted positions, and a controller electrically coupled to the limit switch and configured to reverse the motor travel in response to the limit switch sensing the first switch control device.